An act relating to assistive technology devices; amending s. 1003.575, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the accessibility and use of assistive technology devices by persons with disabilities; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1003.575, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.575 Assistive technology devices; findings; interagency agreements.—Accessibility, utilization, and coordination of appropriate assistive technology devices and services are essential as a young person with disabilities moves from early intervention to preschool, from preschool to school, from one school to another, and from school to employment or independent living, and from school to home and community. If an individual education plan team makes a recommendation in accordance with State Board of Education rule for a student with a disability, as defined in s. 1003.01(3), to receive an assistive technology assessment, that assessment must be completed within 60 school days after the team's recommendation. To ensure that an assistive technology device issued to a young person as part of his or her individualized family support plan,
individual support plan, individualized plan for employment, or
an individual education plan remains with the individual through
such transitions, the following agencies shall enter into
interagency agreements, as appropriate, to ensure the
transaction of assistive technology devices:

(1) The Early Steps Program in the Division of Children's
Medical Services of the Department of Health.

(2) The Division of Blind Services, the Bureau of
Exceptional Education and Student Services, the Office of
Independent Education and Parental Choice, and the Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Education.

(3) The Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
administered by the Department of Education and the Office of
Early Learning.

Interagency agreements entered into pursuant to this section
shall provide a framework for ensuring that young persons with
disabilities and their families, educators, and employers are
informed about the utilization and coordination of assistive
technology devices and services that may assist in meeting
transition needs, and shall establish a mechanism by which a
young person or his or her parent may request that an assistive
technology device remain with the young person as he or she
moves through the continuum from home to school to postschool.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.